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Separate paging is given to this Part in order that it may be filed as a separate compilation.

PART IV.

Miscellaneous Papers.

DILUTE SULPHURIC ACID IN THE TREATMENT OF CHOLERA.

INDIA OFFICE,
London, 18th September 1879.

atistics and Commerce.
No. 116.

To His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor General of India in Council.

MY LORD,—I transmit a copy of two letters* from Dr. Henry MacCormac, advocating the use of dilute sulphuric acid as a prophylactic in case of an outbreak of cholera, and I request that Your Excellency will at once take measures for bringing the specific under the notice of the Medical Officers, Civil and Military, in India.

*Dated 26th and 31st August 1879.

I have the honor to be,
MY LORD,
Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant,

CRANBROOK.

Dated 26th August 1879.

From—H. MACCORMAC, Esq., M. D., Consg. Physician to the Belfast Royal Hospital.

To—The Secretary of State for India.

In common with every one who has paid any attention to the subject, I learn from the public journals that cholera is making and has made destructive ravages among the troops, Native and European, in Afghanistan and the Punjab. I have had an extensive experience of Asiatic cholera, and in the course of it became acquainted with the efficacy of dilute sulphuric acid in the treatment. It occurred to me that a remedy found so useful might prove further appropriate as a means of prevention. Before a disease breaks out in the living organism there is commonly a period of incubation during which the malady does not shew itself but is preparing to do so. This is the time to strike, and thereby, if possible, to hinder the disease from entering. For surely, it is better to prevent than to wait for the appearance of such a scourge. In a public institution to which I am visiting physician, cholera broke out in 1854. Fifty cases occurred almost simultaneously. Out of these, seventeen presently died. At once I placed the whole establishment, consisting of some 300 or 400 persons, under the daily exhibition of one drachm, a large tea-spoonful or so, of dilute sulphuric acid in a small cup of peppermint water. I had, in fact, a large vesselful prepared, so that it was quite a simple matter to give the acid, diluted as thus, to each one in prompt succession. The point I now wish to arrive at is this,—so soon as the members of the establishment came under the influence of the dilute acid—and that I may say was immediately after its administration—no other case of cholera whatever ensued. The facts are quite inexpugnable, and I conceive, justify an immediate message to India, ordering troops and civilians whenever and wherever the dreadful scourge of Asiatic cholera shews its head to be placed under the instant prophylactic efficacy